

PARTS OF A COMIC BOOK

Most of the visual parts of a comic book have names that are distinct to the medium. They include:

The Panel

- The basic unit of a comic book page, consisting of a single illustration
- Most often contained within a square or rectangular frame, although circular panels are not uncommon, and irregularly-shaped panels are also possible.
- Allow comic book action to be broken up into distinct moments in time

The Gutter

- The space on a comic book page that is outside the panels
- Most often narrow and uniform, and doesn't contain any other graphic elements
- Objects or speech balloons within the panels can stick out to some degree

Balloons

- Balloons come in two basic kinds: speech or dialogue balloons, and thought balloons
 - Speech balloons are (usually) round, and contain the text of what a particular character is saying.
 - Thought balloons depict what a character is thinking, and are conventionally drawn with lumpy edges, like clouds.
- Splash balloons are special balloons have jagged edges, and enclose important or dramatic text

Pointers

- Also called the *Tails* of speech balloons, these indicate which character is speaking the words in the balloon. For that reason, they point at the mouth or head whenever possible.
- Thought balloons have *Bubbles* which lead to the character which they belong to.